2017 SOS Workshop Objectives

The 2017 workshop will focus on the theme, "Pole to Pole: Connecting people, places, animals and spaces." With the Detroit Zoological Society as our host, the first-ever zoo to host an SOS workshop, we will be able to explore the ways data visualization can aid in communicating messages about habitats, animals, humans, and the changes that are happening. We are also offering new, "deeper dive" sessions that will occur the afternoon before the workshop officially begins. These two, hands-on, small group sessions will offer an opportunity for a more intensive exploration of two topics: a new approach for interpretation for difficult topics like sea level rise, called "Visualizing Change", and unpacking the visual playlist editor and other aspects of the SOS system software. Also new, we will pilot a student SOS content contest. During the workshop we will discuss the process we used to engage students in creating content, what worked and didn't, and we will view the winning entries. As a result of these new developments, we have added these objectives for this workshop:

● Understand the way a conservation organization like the Detroit Zoo uses its sphere;
● Develop and share new approaches for engaging students, teachers, and other youth, and;
● Explore usefulness of "deeper dive" sessions for workshop attendees.

And, the following "evergreen" objectives are still a core of what we will attempt to achieve with this workshop:

● Improve effectiveness of each institution's use of SOS and other spherical platforms;
● Evolve best practices for content creation and interpretation;
● Expand the breadth of approaches for engaging the public with science through spherical display systems;
● Understand the impact spherical display systems have on learning Earth system science in informal science education settings;
● Continue to inform the future direction of the SOS Network, and;
● Continue to grow a cohesive and collaborative network that is actively sharing information, expertise, and content.